

CABLE AND COMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Date: 05/26/2010

Location: Council Office Building, Room 250

Committee Attendance: Kelly Cameron, Alex Cohen, Trish Evans, Jose Zegarra Holder, Bing Kung, Mona Hall-McKenzie, Grant Moy, Suzanne Weiss, Noreene Wells and Ben Wu. **Absent:** Jay Boyar and Treffaney Lowe. **Cable Office Staff:** Keith Watkins. **Guest:** Dick Lipsky and Eric Eggleton.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Review and approval of March meeting minutes. Suzanne asked to have more of the PEG presentations included in the meeting minutes.
- Review and approval of April meeting minutes with Mitsuko comments noted. Suzanne again asked for further clarification on the assignment of county badges to the CCAC committee for the purpose of parking in the county garage. Keith stated that he was informed by the County Executive's Office that the \$10.00 stipend should suffice to cover the parking expenses for meetings attended by the members of the CCAC.
- Approval of the May meeting agenda.

PEG

- Eric Eggleton introduced himself as the Content Director in the area of technology for Access Montgomery and gave the committee an overview of the coverage that he and his staff would be responsible for.
- Dick Lipsky responded to a question from Suzanne Weiss regarding filling educational gaps by pooling programs/resources with nearby counties or from other PEG partners due to budget cuts. Dick responded that this was a great suggestion and that he would look into it. He also spoke to the challenges that have been presented to MCPS due to budget cuts and asked the committee for their continued support. Discussion ensued.

Cable Office Report

- Keith informed the committee that RCN has transferred ownership to Yankee Cable. Discussion ensued.
- Keith informed the committee that the County Council would officially vote to approve the Cable budget the following day.
- Complaints coming into the Cable Office remain steady with Comcast complains running approximately 100 per month, Verizon complaints are approximately 25 per month and 2 per month for RCN. Complaints are also being forwarded to the Cable Office since the MC311 Call Center system has been launched.
- The Cable office has worked to resolve construction inspection alerts with Comcast Advocacy Team in the past, today we are dealing directly with the construction teams to resolve these alerts.

Old Business

- Suzanne asked if the committee would be taking any action regarding Council's vote on the Cable Budget. She also spoke to concerns regarding cuts made to the Cable Fund in addition to advocating for additional funds. Kelly offered to draft a letter in support of the Cable Office. Discussion ensued.

- The committee discussed the member and expiration terms. Trish suggested since this was the first time the committee had a quorum in quite some time and also due to the many other factors which impacted the yearly elections that the committee proceed with holding elections tonight. The vote to hold the election was unanimous. Trish also announced that she will be leaving the committee after the expiration of her term. Motion made to have the voice vote as a slate. Motion approved to have a voice vote. Motion to accept Kelly and Mona as Chair and Vice Chair. Motion approved to accept both individuals respectively. Suzanne made the motion to assume the role of secretary in support of the committee for a one year term. Motion to appoint Suzanne as secretary for a one year term. Motion approved with two opposed to this idea. Discussion ensued.
- Trish asked the committee to focus on increasing meeting attendance as one of the goals. Mona suggested the committee consider the possibility of changing the date and time of the meeting which may be a cause of not having a quorum at recent meetings. Suzanne suggested sending an email out to get feed back from the group which would include the individuals who are not in attendance at tonight's meeting. Discussion ensued.
- Kelly discussed the new member recruitment. Trish asked if members of the committee could speak to friends and neighbors to see if there is an interest in being a member of the CCAC.

New Business

- Kelly revisited the discussion of 2010 and 2011 committee goals. The biggest goal would be to continue advocating for the PEGs and their budget. He also spoke to taking a tour of their facilities. Suzanne suggested the month of June as a possibility for the tour and another tour be scheduled during the month of July. Discussion ensued.
- Kelly readdressed the issue of PEG oversight. Suzanne asked that the committee set up a meeting with Council members to discuss their expectation of the CCAC. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment

- Kelly stated that next months meeting will take place as scheduled. He will follow up with Mitsuko regarding a meeting at MCT and MCPS.
- Meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.
- Next committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 23rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Office Building (COB).

Submitted by: Andrea Gardner, Office Services Coordinator